

ESTONIA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA (NLE)

MRS TIJU VALM — DIRECTOR GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

THE CIRCULATING COLLECTIONS OF THE NLE ON 1 JANUARY 2004: 3 195 654

MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY, LEGISLATION

In September 2003 the Supervisory Board of the NLE re-elected Mrs Tiiu Valm Director General for the next term of 5 years.

The Riigikogu (Parliament) appointed new members of the NLE Supervisory Board. The previous membership of 10 was reduced to 7.

The budget allocated for 2003 enabled the library to maintain the existing level of basic library services, primarily thanks to the increase of revenues earned by the library and the stability of targeted financing. The increase of state support enabled the raise of salaries by an average of 12%. The increased maintenance expenses had to be covered from the revenues earned by the library.

For improving the preservation conditions of national publications, the Government authorised the library to take a bank loan of 320 000 EUR. This enabled the library to carry out profound renovation in the stack rooms on the 3rd floor where the legal deposit collection is stored. 6 stack rooms got new air-conditioning systems, 2 cold rooms were built for damaged and endangered printed matter, and lighting and shelving was replaced.

The library prepared 2 draft acts: a new draft of the Legal Deposit Copy Act, adding the obligation to submit legal deposit copies of web publications, and the Act on Accession of Estonia to the Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States.

LIBRARY STANDARDISATION, IN-SERVICE TRAINING, CO-OPERATION

The technical committee of standardisation "Information and Documentation" was formed. A new standard was compiled: EVS-EN ISO 2789:2003 Information and Documentation. International Library Statistics.

9 new draft standards were prepared for opinion polling.

25 in-service training events were organised for 520 Estonian librarians.

The NLE joined the Consortium of Legal Resource Centers and Legal Information Specialists.

Preparations started for joining the co-operation project reUSE under the European Commission framework programme E-Content in 2004.

SERVICES TO READERS

Another step in developing specialised information services was the renovation of the former catalogues hall into a new Reference Reading Room which now adjoins the EU Information Centre and Social Sciences Reading Room, thus making the use of information services more convenient for the users.

2003 marked the final preparation stage for a number of large projects that should make their databases accessible to the public in 2004: the database of the Estonian national bibliography, Digitised Estonian Newspapers DEA, Bibliographia Iuridica Estonica BIE.

At present our users have access to 34 licensed on-line databases and 12 000 electronic journals.

As in 2003 Estonia held its national referendum about accession to the European Union, the EU Information Centre and the EU information telephone actively participated in the corresponding awareness campaign.

The library revised the Rules for Users of the Library and the Rules for the Use of Computers in the Library. The new versions of these documents considerably limited the restrictions on the use of the NLE collections.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

23 new work places were built for the users, enabling them to use laptops. An area of wireless internet (WiFi) was created in the library's foyer and in the Conference Centre.

62 outdated PCs were replaced by new ones.

THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

The number of files on the library's web page increased to 3000 (from 2000 files in 2002). Scarce resources have prevented the complete updating of the English-language website. Nevertheless the link of e-services was translated into English in 2003 and will be opened in 2004.

A new link of digital collections was opened at the web page, providing access to the digitised materials from the library's collections (maps, city plans, book illustrations).

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

The library completed a project "Analysis of preservation activities and action plan for 2004-2007". Evaluation of the condition of collections identified an extensive need for cleaning, disinfecting and conservation - over 30% of publications require paper conservation. The library's conservation technology and financial and human resources would enable the annual treatment of only 0.5% of those publications.

CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, PUBLICATIONS

In July the National Library held the Annual Conference of IAML (International Association of Music Libraries) - so far the largest library conference in Estonia with its 335 participants.

The number of exhibitions organised by the library amounted to 121, of these 19 were held on other premises than the library building (15 travelling exhibitions were displayed abroad).

The library published another volume from the series National Library's Proceedings "ACTA 10: 20th Century Libraries in the Baltic Sea Region".

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